

US Virgin Islands Joint Information Center

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR|VITEMA|FEMA

website: www.vitema.gov/jic

11:00pm Advisory, August 25, 2015

Points of Contact;

Kimberly Jones

Director of Communications

Office of the Governor

Kimberly.jones@go.vi.gov

Christine Lett

Public Information Officer

VITEMA

340-771-1328

Christine.lett@vitema.vi.gov

Lauren Lefebvre

FEMA External Affairs 540-247-7974

lauren.lefebvre@fema.dhs.gov

POORLY ORGANIZED ERIKA CONTINUES TOWARDS THE LEEWARD ISLANDS

TROPICAL STORM WATCH ISSUED FOR US VIRGIN ISLANDS

At 11:00 p.m., Tuesday, the center of Tropical Storm Erika was located near latitude 16.0 degrees North, longitude degrees 54.4 West, about 495 miles east of the Leeward Islands. Erika is moving toward the west near 18 miles per hour and a westward to west-northwestward motion at a slightly slower forward speed is expected over the next 48 hours. On the forecast track, the center of Erika will be near the Leeward Islands Wednesday night and early Thursday.

As of 11:00pm a Tropical Storm Watch has been issued for the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for, Anguilla, Saba, St. Eustatius, and St. Maarten.

A Tropical storm watch remains in effect for Montserrat, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Guadeloupe.. A Tropical Storm Watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within 48 hours. Watches may be required for additional areas later today.

On the forecast track, the center of Erika will approach the Leeward Islands Wednesday night and early Thursday.

Maximum sustained winds remain near 40 mph with higher gusts. Some slow strengthening is possible during the next 48 hours. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 80 miles from the center.

The next intermediate advisory is at 2 a.m. and the next complete advisory at 5 a.m.

USVI Forecast

On its current path and based on projections, the center of Erika should make its closest point of approach to the Virgin Islands on Thursday, between 2:00 -3:00 p.m. when the storm center will pass within 10 miles of St. Thomas and St. John. At that time, Erika is forecasted to be a strong tropical storm with sustained winds of up to 60 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service – Weather Forecast Office at San Juan.

Based on latest forecast model marine conditions will deteriorate by early Thursday morning and the first rain bands could reach the area on Thursday morning. Rain could affect through Friday as the system moves to the west or west-northwest.

While there is uncertainty in the intensity and track forecast, most models continue to indicate a significant amount of tropical moisture over the local area with a good potential for significant rainfall over the region, according to the National Weather Service.

VITEMA and the National Weather Service are advising the public to begin taking preparedness steps and to closely monitor the track and forecast of Tropical Storm Erika. Stay tuned to local radio and television for weather updates and for more information and instructions from local government officials.

For more information about hurricane preparedness visit www.VITEMA.gov/hurricanes, www.Ready.gov or www.Listo.gov, or call VITEMA at 340-773-2244, 340-774-2244 or 340776-2244.

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